



Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Corrie Betts, and I'm a member Criminal Justice committee at the NAACP Connecticut State Conference, speaking on behalf of NAACP-CT and its thousands of members

I am writing to you today to express support of H.B. 5390, which will repeal statutory provisions that impose liability on formerly incarcerated individuals for the costs of their incarceration. As an individual dedicated to seeing a more just legal system that advances the rights of criminal defendants and facilitates fair reentry, I call on you to vote in favor of H.B. 5390.

In 2021, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit concluded that a cost of incarceration lien conflicted with federal civil rights statutes. The court barred a lien placed on a person's compensation stemming from a lawsuit judgement against a state officer who violated the prisoner's rights. This judgment is likely an opening for more challenges against incarceration liens.

White non-Hispanic residents in Connecticut represent approximately two-thirds of the state's general population but only about 28% of the state's incarcerated population. Black and Latino individuals make up more than 71% percent of Connecticut's prison population. If this Committee and the General Assembly is committed to advancing racial equity, then it should pass H.B. 5390.

Respectfully,

*Corrie Betts*

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